

COUNTY AFFAIRS.

STATEMENT SHOWING HOW ESSEX COUNTY HAS ADVANCED

To Pre-eminence Among the Counties of this State—Some Features of the County Tax Rate that Every Taxpayer Should Study Carefully—Thomas McGowan's Connection with the County Government and How the County Has Benefited from His Experience and Judgment.

A circular addressed to the citizens and taxpayers of Bloomfield and Glen Ridge, over the name of Zebulon G. Wood, has been issued and circulated for the avowed purpose of electing its author to the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Essex in place of Thomas McGowan, who has represented this district in the county board for several years. The re-election of Mr. McGowan is a duty which his district owes to itself, for several reasons; he has acquired by business ability and recognized character, as well as by experience, a commanding position in the Board of Chosen Freeholders, and for this reason he is able to care for local interests better than any new man; he can see to it that the local interests of Bloomfield and Glen Ridge are fully protected, and local improvements secured with a success that would be impossible to any man whose knowledge of county affairs and county business methods and proceedings would have to be acquired after election.

But Mr. McGowan's re-election is also a duty which this district owes to the county at large, because his great experience and the devotion to county interests which he has shown, make his services of very great value. He knows the public men of the State, and he is familiar with the great body of laws applicable to county affairs; he has been called upon to vote and act upon most of the important questions that can come up for consideration; he knows the history of the county and its various institutions; he has participated in the planning and development of the county enterprises, and has acquired that kind of knowledge and experience which are of the very greatest value in the conduct of public affairs. Long and painstaking study leads to fullness of knowledge; the long-continued and often repeated exercise of reasoning power upon a given set of subjects produces ripeness of judgment upon those subjects, and many experiences in dealing with practical problems of administration, gives readiness of resource, firmness of purpose, and clearness of conviction.

It is obvious and elemental; it seems strange that any one should question it, yet the circular in question seems to proceed upon the theory that these things are not so; that there is merit in rawness; that the untried is better than the approved; that the man who has yet to learn is to be preferred to the man of experience and skill.

In appearing before the public as the author of the circular, Mr. Zebulon G. Wood gives a striking illustration of his want of familiarity with county affairs, of his readiness to jump at unwarranted conclusions, and of an unbalanced judgment which, if supported by a sufficient number of others of like ideas, would produce results most unfortunate to the county. He propounds a series of questions, of which the following is a summary:

1. Has not the county tax-rate increased?

2. Is there any increased efficiency in the public utilities of the county?

3. Has there been any actual advance in this great county within the past twenty years?

The second of these questions is a curious form of words, and it is doubtful if the author had any distinct idea in his mind when framing it, but the general purpose of all three questions is to create the impression that the author supposes that for many years the county tax rate has been steadily and constantly advanced; while at the same time no advance has been made in the material welfare of the county and its institutions and public works.

It seems worth while for the information of Mr. Wood, and of any others who may read this circular and have any misgivings that it has any basis of fact to support it, that a brief answer be made to his absurd questions.

The county tax rate for the years of which a record is available, beginning with 1873 and ending with 1900, a period of twenty-eight years, has averaged sixty-five points, and the rates in the earlier part of this period were as follows, for:

1873 91.00 1877 72.00

1874 73.70 1878 72.65

1875 75.60 1879 69.60

1876 68.00

and from the beginning down to the present time the rate has been falling, with some fluctuations, as important public works were undertaken or omitted, and as county affairs were in the hands of one or another set of men.

It is not proposed to state this matter with any reference to partisan politics, and no consideration will therefore be given to the question as to what party was in power in any particular year. The point is that instead of a steadily and constantly advancing tax rate for county purposes, there has been a great decrease, which, while not entirely steady and constant, has on the whole been diminishing until the general average for the entire period shows a rate of sixty-five, which low average has been produced by the lower rates of recent years. Of course everybody remembers that the rates for both 1901 and 1902 are below the average.

If, therefore, Mr. Wood is really in pursuit of information, if his questions are asked by reason of his ignorance, we will answer to his first inquiry, so the county tax rate has not "steadily and constantly advanced."

As to the still more absurd implication that in twenty years there has been

no actual advance in this great county, is it really necessary to say to any intelligent citizen that the county has now over seventy miles of public county roads? That it has public institutions, penal and reformatory, far better than those of any other county in the State, which have been transformed into their present efficient condition within the past ten years? That it has built a model county hospital for the insane, and now cares for over 950 patients of this afflicted class? That it has erected at a cost of \$150,000 to this county a new bridge over the Passaic River? That it is building a new court house which will be a credit and ornament to the whole county, and finally that the county has issued bonds for four millions of dollars, and has acquired title to a system of County Parks which has already made Essex County famous, and which makes it stand pre-eminent over any other county in the State?

Meantime all departments of the county government have been carried on without waste and without extravagance, but with a spirit of liberality towards important public enterprises of a permanent character. Yet with a determination to keep down the tax rate to the lowest point consistent with an enlightened administration of public affairs. No intelligent citizen ought to be ignorant of these "advances," and no man ought to offer himself as a candidate for membership in the county government who ignorantly or wilfully signs his name to such a circular as that under consideration.

NOMINATIONS RATIFIED.

First Ward Republican Club Held An Enthusiastic Meeting Friday Night Republican Nominations Ratified Stirring Speech by Wilbur A Mott—Local Support Pledged to Mr. McGowan.

The First Ward Republican Club deserves the credit of being the only local political organization to display more than a passive interest in the county political campaign now on. The club's committees on "registration," "new voters," and "poll work" have all been busy of late and are up to date with their work, and are going to make a vigorous effort to secure a large Republican majority in the First Ward on November 4.

A well-attended and enthusiastic meeting was held under the auspices of the club on Friday night of last week. Harry L. Osborne, President of the club, presided, assisted by C. E. Van Winkle as Secretary. Mr. Osborne made the opening address welcoming the guests of the club, and urged upon all Republicans present the necessity of getting in line for work in the present campaign, which he believes was a very important one for the Republicans of Essex County. President Osborne addressed each candidate on the Republican ticket in particular, laying special emphasis on the necessity of the First Ward giving a large vote for one of its own esteemed residents, Thomas McGowan. The mention of Mr. McGowan's name elicited a round of applause.

John A. Lawrence followed Mr. Osborne, and after appropriate remarks offered the following resolutions:

Whereas, Two of the candidates on the Republican ticket have been distinguished by our opponents by especial criticism and opposition against Major Carl Lentz, the Republican candidate for Sheriff, who received the compliment of a unanimous nomination, the shafts of bitter criticism have since been directed.

Whereas, For a dozen years, Major Lentz, as the head of the Republican organization in this county has defended its nominees and conducted them to victory. He is a man of firmness and decision; he has shown very great capacity for organization. His views as to the conduct of the office of Sheriff are well known, and we have no doubt that he will organize an administration of the office to which we propose to elect him on November 4, that will confer further distinction upon himself and upon the party to which he has given so many years of valuable service.

Whereas, It seems strange that an effort should be made in Bloomfield to detract from the known character of Thomas McGowan; nothing but malignant partisanship and selfish purposes can account for it. Mr. McGowan is no stranger here, nor is he seeking a re-election for the sake of notoriety, or to aid him in promoting some selfish scheme. His services to the county are of so much importance that his election by a large and triumphant majority becomes a duty which Bloomfield owes not only to itself, but to the whole county. Therefore be it

Resolved, That the candidates of the Republican party are worthy of our hearty support. The nominees for legislative offices, both national and State, are men of experience and proved ability, and the candidates for county and local offices are men who inspire respect and confidence. This organization endorses them with enthusiasm, and will support them with earnest endeavor for their success.

Judge Mott of South Orange was then introduced to the audience, and was received with a hearty welcome. The Judge handled the issues of the campaign, both national and State, in his usual powerful and forcible manner. The speaker paid a tribute to Major Lentz, and the manner in which it was received by his hearers would indicate that the Major will receive but little opposition in this town.

During the speech Mr. Thomas McGowan, the candidate of the party for Freeholder, entered the room and was received with great applause. At the conclusion of the Judge's speech Mr. Osborne called upon Mr. McGowan, who responded in his usual warm and happy manner. At the wish of Mr. McGowan the meeting adjourned with hearty cheers for the Republican nominee.

The First Ward Republican Club will tender a reception to the Hon. Robert M. Boyd, Jr., of Montclair, Republican nominee for Assembly, on Thursday evening, October 30, at the club room. The most cordial relations exist between Mr. Boyd and the members of the First Ward Club, and this will doubtless prove a very happy occasion.

Town Council.

The Town Council met in regular session Monday night. Councilmen Unanet and Farrand were absent. Town Clerk Johnson reported that no objections had been filed by property-owners against the work done, or the material used in the construction of the Morton Street sewer. At the next meeting of the Council a resolution will be passed referring the matter to the Board of Assessors for the purpose of leaving the assessment on property-owners benefited by the sewer.

The application of Joseph Hobup of Phoenix Hose Company for an exempt firemen's certificate was granted. Charles Street property-owners petitioned for a sewer in that street for a distance of about 1,000 feet. The petition was referred to the Sewer Committee, and an motion of Councilman Conlan that it was directed to advertising the petition.

W. W. Nick, Secretary of the Fairview Improvement Association, addressed the Council on behalf of that body, and requested readjustment of the street lights on Newark Avenue at Baldwin Place. The matter was referred to the Street Lighting Committee. Further action in regard to the tax duplicate was postponed until the return to town of Councilman Fairand.

Councilman Moore of the Legal Committee read the usual progress report from the Essex Cross Railway Company's franchise application, and action upon it was deferred until Monday evening, November 3. For the Sidewalk Committee Mr. Moore reported progress on the Glenwood Avenue sidewalk and the crosswalk at Clinton and Washington Streets.

Chairman Peterson called the attention of the Crosswalk Committee to needed repairs to the crosswalk at Linden and Ashland Avenues.

H. G. Long of No. 60 Orange Street, sent a letter to the Council setting forth that fifty-six high grade Belgian horses valued at \$100, had been killed on his premises by dogs and he wanted to know that inasmuch as the Council collected a tax for dogs, if the proceeds from that tax were not available for redress for damages caused by dogs. Mr. Long's request was referred to the Legal Committee for investigation.

Filthy Streams.

Councilman Conlan of the Sewer Committee reported at the Town Council meeting Monday night that a number of filthy ditches in various parts of the town were in need of attention from the authorities, and he cited the Conner Street ditch and the ditch between Prospect Street and Glenwood Avenue opposite the Prospect Street school as two of the most offensive of the streams.

Chairman Peterson added the Glenwood Avenue ditch between Second Street and Morris Avenue as equally as bad, and stated emphatically that all such streams should be kept clean, and it was not so much a matter as to whether it was the duty of the private property-owner or the Board of Health or the Council to clean the streams as it was important that they should be kept clean.

Mr. Conlan said that in as much as the Board of Health had no funds with which to do the work, the Town Council should look after the matter.

Town Attorney Halfpenny stated that it was the duty of the Council to do the work.

Councilman Moore suggested that the matter of cleansing the streams be referred to a special committee, but Chairman Peterson said that it was work that properly belonged to the Sewerage and Drainage Committee.

Mr. Conlan stated that Mr. McGowan of the Board of Freeholders said that the Board would look after and attend to any part of the work that belonged to the county, and do it at once.

Councilman Harrison asked how the streams became so polluted as reported and who was responsible for it.

Chairman Peterson replied that the ditches were made a dumping place for all kinds of refuse.

New Bridge Wanted.

At the regular meeting of the Town Council on Monday night Councilman Conlan, Chairman of the Road Committee, brought up the matter of needed repairs to the Belleville Avenue canal bridge, and the necessity for a new bridge on the side road at Williamson Avenue. Mr. Conlan stated that he brought this matter before the Council at the request of the Board of Trade and he submitted a letter from Theodore H. Ward, Chairman of the Board of Trade Committee on Railroads, in which action on the part of the Town Council was requested.

Mr. Conlan said that he understood that the Williamson Avenue bridge was in a dangerous condition, which, aside from the unsightly appearance of the structure, should move the Council to use its endeavors to obtain a new bridge. Both bridge matters were referred to the Franchise Committee of the Council for investigation and report.

ROAD WORK.

Road Committee Reports Grove Street in Need of Repairs—Board of Assessors Report on Delaware Avenue—Olive Street and Jerome Place Accepted.

Road matters were a prominent feature of the Town Council's business on Monday night. Councilman Conlan, Chairman of the Road Committee, reported that in an inspection of the road work done under the bonding plan the Road Committee found that the work done in Grove Street was not satisfactory and that the street needed topdressing to put it in proper shape. There was still due the contractor, Mr. Francisco, \$128, but that was not enough to cover the cost of the work needed. It was possible that Mr. Francisco might prefer to forfeit the \$128 and let the town finish the street. Mr. Francisco was only a subcontractor under the Osborne & Marcellis Company, the general contractor for the road work done under the bonding plan, and Mr. Conlan was of the opinion that the latter company should be held responsible for the proper completion of Grove Street.

Town Attorney Halfpenny advised holding back the money due the Osborne & Marcellis Company until the Grove Street work was made satisfactory.

Mr. Walker asked whether or not Grove Street was included in the general contract.

Mr. Conlan replied that the Council had power to hold over to take out streets to be immediately under that contract.

Mr. Moore moved that a proper demand be made upon the Osborne & Marcellis Company to complete the Grove Street work. This motion was carried.

Councilman Moore of the Legal Committee reported that right of way for a drain from Jerome Place to Second River had been deeded to the town and that the cost of the right of way had been raised by private subscription.

Fairview property-owners presented a petition to the Council for the opening, widening, and extending of Weaver Avenue and Cedar Street in that section of the town. The petition was referred to the Legal Committee.

The Board of Assessors reported the result of several hearings held by the Board of property-owners interested in the opening of several streets. The first report of the Board was on Delaware Avenue, which it was stated could be opened as desired at a cost of about \$360. The second report was on Olive Street from Dodd Street to Hinrichs Place, which improvement would cost about \$95. The third report was on Jerome Place and Walnut Street extension, which it was estimated would cost \$1,755. The several reports were accepted and the reports ordered published, and the usual notices issued by the Clerk.

Councilman Walker reported the Second Ward people highly pleased with the work done by the Road Committee at Morris Place and Franklin Avenue.

Those Brookdale Roads.

At the Republican mass-meeting in Central Hall Tuesday night, Thomas McGowan, the candidate for Freeholder, made it very clear that the town should pay the ten per cent. assessment for the stone roads constructed in Brookdale under the State Aid Act. Mr. McGowan and the Town Council entered into an agreement about the payment of part of the cost of the work, and Mr. McGowan's proposition that the Council and not the property-owners along the street pay ten per cent. of the cost, was accepted by the Council. The delay in the settlement is purely the fault of the Council. Mr. McGowan had the work done as he agreed to, and the State paid part of the cost and the county paid part of it, but the town has not yet paid its part.

A bitch has occurred in the plans of the Board of Freeholders that may interfere with the carrying out of the proposed county speedway, or at least defer its completion until additional legislation in the form of an enabling act has been obtained.

If you are in need of good coal at the right price call up 38-a, or send postal to William B. Corby, 267 Glenwood Avenue—Ado.

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THE ELECTION.

THE STATE, COUNTY AND TOWN STILL IN THE REPUBLICAN LINE.

Increased Republican Majorities Over 1901—Every Candidate on the County Republican Ticket Gets a Plurality of Votes—The Detailed Votes in Each Election District.

The result of the election held in a large number of States throughout the Union on Tuesday, November 4, very thoroughly demonstrated that the great majority of the people are still with the Republican party, and that all talk about tariff inconsistencies, trusts, strikes, and other political, social and industrial questions which were, according to pessimists, to be charged up to the party in power, were apparently of non-effect with the great mass of the people.

New Jersey still stays in the Republican column, with a majority of Republican Congressmen, State Senators and members of Assembly.

Essex County is still a Republican stronghold, and the town of Bloomfield increased its Republican majority over that of 1901. The Republicans have good grounds for rejoicing, but here in Essex County the disposition to feel enthusiastic is offset by the defeat of Major Carl Lentz by his fellow-Republicans. Major Lentz received several thousand more votes than the Democratic ticket polled, but his Democratic opponent, William C. Nicoll, got Republican credits all over the county.

The total vote in this town on Tuesday was 1,919 out of a total registry of 2,477. The vote cast was a trifle short of 80 per cent. of the registry, and 92 votes more than were polled at the fall election last year.

The Republican ticket received 1,184 votes Tuesday against 1,161 in 1901, and the Democratic ticket 606 this year against 604 last year. The Prohibition ticket received 21 votes Tuesday, the Socialist 35, and the Socialist Labor ticket 15. In every election district in the town a number of ballots were rejected as marked ballots. The two Park acts on the ballots caused much confusion to the voters, and in the majority of cases no attempt was made to designate either in favor or against the adoption of the two acts. The vote in the town in favor of the first park proposition was 570 and against 467; on the second proposition the vote was 530 for and 484 against.

The vote in the First District of the First Ward for the Republican and Democratic candidates was as follows: For Congress, Parker, Republican, 292; Miller, Democrat, 82. State Senator, Bacheller, Republican, 294; Kallisch, Democrat, 80. Sheriff, Lentz, Republican, 288; Nicoll, Democrat, 116. County Clerk, Horton, Republican, 298; Rollinson, Democrat, 82. County Supervisor, Johnson, Republican, 300; Dimond, Democrat, 81. Freeholder, McGowan, Republican, 281; Wood, Democrat, 100. Pluralities: Parker 217, Bacheller 205, Lentz 142, Horton 216, Johnson 219, McGowan 141.

The First Ward, Second District, vote on the same tickets was as follows: Parker 141, Miller 110, Bacheller 140, Kallisch 111, Lentz 121, Horton 141, Rollinson 111, Johnson 139, Dimond 114, McGowan 133, Wood 119.

Pluralities: Parker 30, Bacheller 29, Nicoll 5, Horton 30, Johnson 25, McGowan 20.

The Second Ward vote on the two leading tickets was as follows: First District, Parker 181, Miller 118, Bacheller 175, Kallisch 123, Lentz 156, Nicoll 143, Horton 182, Rollinson 118, Johnson 183, Dimond 116, McGowan 163, Wood 135.